

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant strongly disagrees with this rejection and the assertions made in the office action. Nonetheless, these claims have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

All of the pending independent claims recite that signal paths for first and second shift registers are provided separately for each of the first and second shift registers on respective sides of a circuit alignment of first and second unit circuits of the first and second shift registers. A non-limiting example of such signal paths is shown by way of illustration and without limitation in Figures 13 and 14 of the subject patent application. See also discussion of the examples shown in Figures 13 and 14 at page 41, line 11 to page 43, line 25.

None of the applied references disclose or suggest such the claimed arrangement of signal paths.

The office action references Figures 5A, 5B and 6 of Kihara et al. However, as can be seen from inspection of the Figures, neither these Figures nor the accompanying

MAEDA et al.
Serial No. 10/714,935
Response to Office Action dated November 12, 2008

description disclose or suggest providing signal paths separately on respective sides of the shift registers as recited in the claims.

Neither Azami nor Washio discloses a circuit alignment of first and second unit circuits of first and second shift registers and for at least this reason there can be no disclosure or suggestion in these documents of separately arranging signal paths for these shift registers as claimed.

New claims 29-33 call for providing signal paths as recited in the amended claims. Consequently, these claims likewise patentably distinguish over the applied references.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that further discussion would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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